

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 05846 201054Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 /101 W
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P R 200937Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9270
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 5846

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

LAGOS FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DALLEY AND ANNE HOLLOWAY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, IV
SUBJ: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT OF THE IVORY COAST

REF: STATE 141940

SUMMARY: BRITISH AMBASSADOR MADE PRESENTATION ON RHODESIA
TO DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S CABINET ON JUNE 15. AMERICAN
AMBASSADOR FOLLOWED UP WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ON JUNE 17.
FOREIGN MINISTER SAID IVORIAN DELEGATION AT KHARTOUM SUMMIT OF OAU
IN JULY WOULD WORK AGAINST EFFORTS TO GIVE EXCLUSIVE SUPPORT TO
PATRIOTIC FORCES AND WOULD ABSTAIN ON ANY RESOLUTION IN THAT
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SPIRIT. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER DISCUSSION WITH U.K. AMBASSADOR WRIGHT, IT WAS
AGREED THAT HE WOULD MAKE PRESENTATION ON RHODESIA TO
FOREIGN MINISTER'S DIRECTOR OF CABINET TRAORE, MOST
SENIOR IVORIAN DIPLOMAT PRESENT IN ABIDJAN LAST
WEEK IN ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER AKE. IT WAS FURTHER

AGREED THAT U.S. AMBASSADOR WOULD MAKE SUPPORTING APPROACH TO FOREIGN MINISTER WHEN HE RETURNED. BRITISH AMBASSADOR UNDERTOOK TO PREPARE FRENCH VERSION OF AGREED TALKING POINTS (REFTEL).

2. BRITISH AMBASSADOR SAW TRAORE JUNE 15. AMERICAN AMBASSADOR SAW FOREIGN MINISTER AKE JUNE 17 IN MEETING ARRANGED FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE DALLEY AND ANNE HOLLOWAY.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER, AFTER CONFIRMING THAT TEXT OF TALKING POINTS WAS IDENTICAL WITH THAT EARLIER PROVIDED TO TRAORE BY BRITISH AMBASSADOR, OBSERVED THAT IVORIAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION AT LAST YEAR'S OAU SUMMIT IN LIBREVILLE CONFERRING SPECIAL RECOGNITION ON PATRIOTIC FRONT HAD BEEN A MISTAKE. IN IVORIAN VIEW, LIBREVILLE RESOLUTION HAD COMPLICATED RHODESIAN PROBLEM UNNECESSARILY BY GIVING PATRIOTIC FRONT THE IMPRESSION THEY ENJOYED UNQUALIFIED OAU SUPPORT AND DID NOT NEED TO REACH ACCOMMODATION WITH INTERNAL NATIONALIST LEADERS. IVORY COAST WOULD THEREFORE WORK AT KHARTOUM SUMMIT IN JULY TO HEAD OFF ATTEMPTS TO REAFFIRM OR STRENGTHEN EXCLUSIVE OAU RECOGNITION OF PATRIOTIC FRONT.

4. AKE ADDED THAT IVORIAN GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED THAT
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PRESSURE HAD TO BE MAINTAINED ON INTERNAL NATIONALIST LEADERS WHO THUS FAR HAD REFUSED TO ENGAGE IN NEW TALKS WITH PATRIOTIC FRONT. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT BELIEVE BEST WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WAS BY PASSING OAU RESOLUTIONS PARTIAL TO PATRIOTIC FRONT. GOIC DELEGATION WOULD THEREFORE WORK IN CORRIDORS AGAINST SUCH DEVELOPMENT AND WOULD ABSTAIN ON ANY RESOLUTION WHICH SEEMED TO CONFER EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION ON PATRIOTIC FRONT.

5. AKE SUMMARIZED IVORIAN POSITION BY SAYING THAT GOIC CONTINUED TO SUPPORT ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS, STILL CONSIDERED SALISBURY TERMS FOR INTERNAL SETTLEMENT INADEQUATE, BUT THOUGHT THAT UNQUALIFIED RADICAL AFRICAN AND COMMUNIST SUPPORT FOR PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. EVERYONE COULD AGREE, SAID AKE, THAT PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE SHOULD HAVE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN LEADERS. REAL PROBLEM WAS TO ENABLE THEM TO DO SO IN AN ATMOSPHERE FREE OF VIOLENCE AND COERCION BY ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER.
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